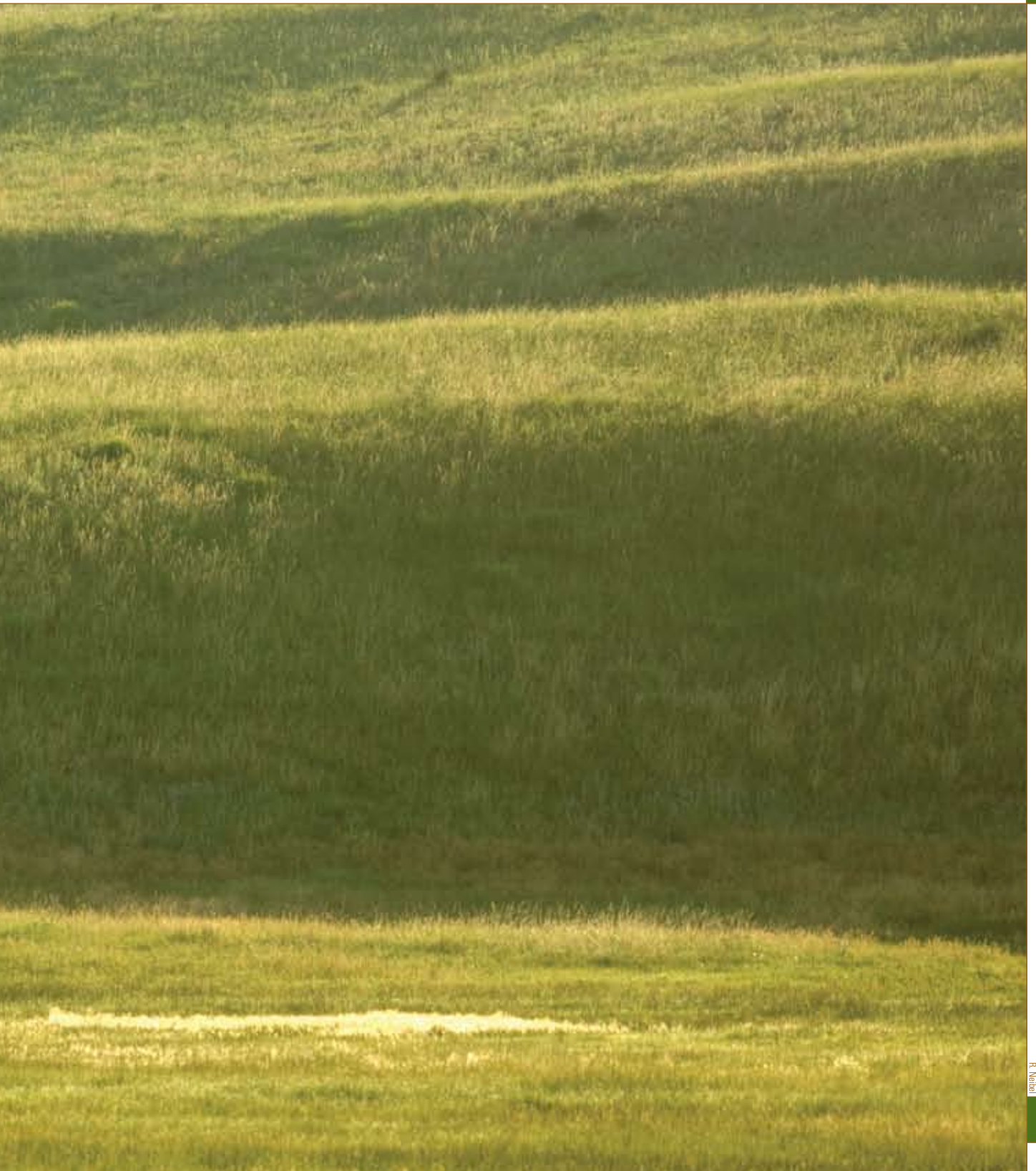


[SEA OF GRASS] Welcome to Nebraska's sandhills, an expanse of grass-covered sand dunes stretching to the horizon. Covering much of the central portion of the state, the unique landscape provides excellent nutrition for cattle as well as a relaxing respite for people who meander through the region.



Sandhills



A natural state of mind

Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine

Visitors to the Sandhills Region are often drawn in by the quiet beauty and scenic wonder of the area. Nowhere is this grandeur on greater display than in the nationally designated forests and wildlife refuges.

The largest hand-planted forest in the world, the pine-clad Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forest rises up from the rolling prairie outside Halsey. Similarly, the Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest near Nenzel features an unusual mix of native ponderosa pines and expansive grasslands just waiting to be explored. Camping, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and hunting are all popular activities at both locales.

Then there are the refuges near Valentine: Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge (east of town) and Valentine National Wildlife Refuge (south of town). A wooded canyon and a prairie with an abundance of shallow lakes, respectively, the two areas offer vastly different experiences. What they have in common, though, is an unexpected splendor that will change your perspective of the state's topography.

River recreation

While the Niobrara National Scenic River serves as a tremendous natural resource for the area and supports a diverse collection of flora and fauna, the river is best known for its recreation. The Niobrara ranks as one of the top ten canoeing hot spots in the nation, and tubing is another popular way to navigate the river.

The view as you travel downstream can only be described as magnificent . . . wooded river bluffs, wildlife, and delightful waterfalls. In fact, the cool, clear waters of Nebraska's tallest waterfall—Smith Falls—cascade over a 70-foot cliff before flowing into the river. It's definitely worth the effort to portage and follow the wooden walkway to experience the falls firsthand.

Smith Falls State Park, Valentine



Sherman Reservoir, Loup City

Calamus Reservoir, Burwell

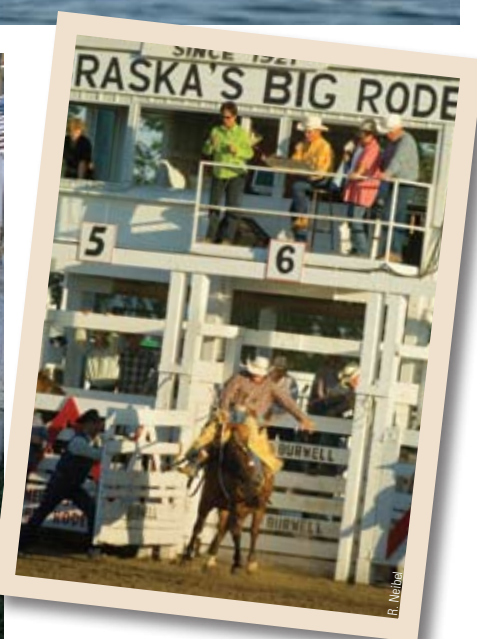
Go for a DIP



Ready to cool off during your Sandhills adventure? Stop by one of the region's reservoirs—Calamus Reservoir near Burwell, Merritt Reservoir south of Valentine, or Sherman Reservoir by Loup City—to go for a swim, cast a line, or simply float your boat in the refreshing waters.



Ride 'em, cowboy



Every summer, folks from all over head to Burwell for some of the best PRCA action around at Nebraska's Big Rodeo. Held in one of the world's largest outdoor rodeo arenas, this event keeps you on the edge of your seat with barrel racing, calf roping, bull riding, and more.

This year's roundup promises to be as exciting as ever, so don't miss out!



AINSWORTH

866-387-2740 • www.ainsworthchamber.com

Attractions

Keller Park State Recreation Area 12 mi. N. of US Hwy 20 on US Hwy 183 – Fishing (rainbow trout along with warm-water species), hiking, camping hookups and picnic shelters. Open year-round. Park permit required. Camping fee. 402-684-2921 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

Sellors Barton Museum Court House Park at US Hwy 20 & Main St – Log cabin with many area historical artifacts. Open late May-early Sep, Mon-Fri, 10:30am-4:30pm; Sat-Sun, 1-4:30pm. Free. 402-387-2740 &

Accommodations

ANSELMO

Attractions

Victoria Springs State Recreation Area 7 mi. E. of NE Hwy 2 & S-21A – Recall the days when spas and mineral springs were in vogue. Rustic cabins, Memorial Day-3rd weekend in Nov. Reservations accepted. Camping year-round. Fishing, paddleboats and hiking. Park permit required. Camping fee. 308-749-2235 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Outfitters

Rifle Creek Lodge 10 mi. N.W. on NE Hwy 2 – Working cattle ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills offering duck, grouse and prairie chicken hunts. Year-round. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Hiking guide service. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 308-749-2424

Accommodations

ARCADIA

308-789-6552 • www.arcadiane.com

Outfitters

Central Nebraska Guide Service of Arcadia Guided fishing trips in the Nebraska Sandhills. Guided or unguided hunting opportunities. May-Oct. Hunting guide service. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. 308-789-6197 www.arcadiane.com

Accommodations

Historic County Jail, Arthur



Courtesy of Sandhills Open Road Challenge

Each summer, hundreds of drivers pull in to Arnold to participate in the 55-mile Sandhills Open Road Challenge, which is said to be one of the most challenging races of its kind in the United States.

ARNOLD

308-848-2228 • www.arnoldne.org

Attractions

Arnold Recreation Area 1 mi. S. of Jct of NE Hwys 40 & 92 – Boating, fishing and camping areas. Open year-round. 308-848-2228 www.arnoldne.org

Accommodations

ARTHUR

308-764-2367

Attractions

Courthouse Museum City park on Main St – Listed by *Ripley's Believe It or Not* as the world's smallest courthouse. It has original handmade furniture and documents from the early days of the county. Weekdays, get the key from the new courthouse next door. Weekends, call for info. Donation. 308-764-2367

Strawbale Church 2 blks E., 1 blk N. of courthouse – Built in 1928 from baled straw, then plastered, this church is the only one of its kind in the United States. A note on the door tells you where to get the key. Donation. 308-764-2367

Outfitters

Nebraska Outdoor Experience LLC Various locations in Nebraska – Experience different terrains on a guided hunt in the great state of Nebraska. Ranch tours also available at a working cattle ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills. Guided hunts Aug-May; ranch tours year-round. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 402-499-3475 www.nebraskaoutdoorexperience.com

Accommodations

ASHBY

Attractions

CaLinda's Pot Shop & Art Gallery 113 Main St – Handmade pottery, watercolor, oil paintings, pastels and inks with a Western flare. Featuring landscapes of the Nebraska Sandhills. Scheduled painting and pottery workshops. Summer hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm. Winter hours: Fri afternoons or by appt. Free. 308-577-6766 or 308-458-8051 &

ATKINSON

402-925-5313 • www.atkinsonne.com

Attractions

Atkinson Lake Park 1 mi. W. – Fishing and small boat access. Open year-round. Camping available. 402-925-5313 &

Outfitters

B&B Trophy Hunts Rural area, call for directions – Guided hunts for buffalo, elk, Fallow deer, Sika deer, bighorn sheep and Merriam's turkey in the Niobrara River Valley. Hunting in season. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 402-340-6121 www.trophybison.com

Brush Creek Game 48101 892 Rd, 20 mi. N. on NE Hwy 11, 1 mi. W. on 891 Rd – Family-operated organization with 1,000 hunting acres. Cabin available on-site. Hunting in season. Hunting access. Game farm access. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 402-925-2558 www.brushcreekgame.com

Holt Creek Ringnecks 86592 471st Ave, 15½ mi. S.W. — Some of the best hunting you'll find in north-central Nebraska. Located in a secluded area on the rim of the Sandhills. Great food, lodging and hospitality. Year-round. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Big game hunting. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-925-2528 or 888-746-6325 www.ringnecks.com



Accommodations

BARTLETT

Attractions

Pibel Lake State Recreation Area 9 mi. S., 1 mi. E. on US Hwy 281 — Boating, fishing and camping areas. Open year-round. Park permit required. 308-346-5666 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

Outfitters

Beaver Valley Outdoorsman Come and experience the thrill of game bird hunting on Nebraska's unique sandhill grasslands. Lodging available. Sep 1-Mar 31. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 402-649-3861 www.funhunting.com

Sandhill Seasons Guest Ranch & Hunts 83313 508th Ave, 7 mi. N. on US Hwy 281, 11 mi. E. on NE Hwy 70, 6 mi. S. — One-party bookings. Different packages available. Variety of terrain. Modern guesthouse that sleeps 15 located on premises next to fields with home-cooked meals. CSA Sep 1-Mar 31. Guest ranch year-round. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-386-5457 www.sandhillseasons.com



Accommodations

BASSETT

402-684-3417 • www.bassettnebr.com

Attractions

Rock County Historical Museum W. US Hwy 20 — The museum offers 6 original buildings full of period piece exhibits of the founding and settling of Rock County. Open May 1-Oct 1, daily, 9am-5pm. Private tours available. Free. 402-684-3327 www.rootsweb.com/~nerchs

Outfitters

Outback Adventures Inc. 20 mi. S.E. — Located on a working ranch. Clubhouse, lodging, meals, conference area and recreation area. Corporate retreats available for all groups. Year-round. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. Bird-viewing service. Cross-country skiing. 402-244-5473 www.outbackhunts.com

Peterson Buffalo Ranch 12 mi. S. of Newport — Buffalo herd tours, mature buffalo trophy hunts or fishing in a great northern pike lake. The ranch is filled with wildlife such as ducks, geese, prairie chickens, turkeys, jackrabbits and coyotes. Hunting access. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. 402-244-5300



Accommodations



pgs. 134-135;



pgs. 148-150;



pgs. 158-162



Discover your inner cowboy or cowgirl at Uncle Buck's Lodge near Brewster. This 10,000-acre working cattle ranch near the scenic North Loup River offers guests a taste of authentic ranch living.

BERWYN



Accommodations

BREWSTER

308-547-2460 • www.ci.brewster.ne.us

Outfitters

Sandhills Guest Ranch B&B 83445 N. Loup Spur, DeGroff Ranch, 3 mi. E. on NE Hwy 91 — Lodging with home-cooked meals and hospitality. Wide-open prairie, hunting for upland game and all wild birds. Year-round. Hunting access. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Canoeing. Tubing. Boat rental. Bird-viewing service. Hiking guide service. Chuck wagon. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 308-547-2460

Uncle Buck's Lodge 455 Brewster Ave, N. NE Hwy 7 — Enjoy stargazing, wagon rides, campfire stories and home-cooked meals. May-Dec. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Canoeing. Tubing. Bird-viewing service. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 308-547-2210 or 800-239-9190 www.unclebuckslodge.com



Accommodations



Bunkhouse Bar & Grill *Cheeseburger*
Arthur, 308-764-2601

Uncle Buck's Lodge *Burgers and Steaks*
Brewster, 308-547-2210

The Bonfire Grill *Ribeye*
Broken Bow, 308-872-3363

BROKEN BOW

308-872-5691 • www.brokenbow-ne.com

Attractions

Custer County Historical Museum 445 S. 9th Ave — Objects and photographs depicting pioneer life from the 1800s to the present. Research center, archives, gift shop and Solomon Butcher Gallery. Summer hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Rest of the year, Mon-Fri, 1-5pm. Closed holidays. Free. 308-872-2203 www.rootsweb.com/~necuster &

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Visitor Center 44106 NE Hwy 2 — This facility showcases the beauty of the Nebraska Sandhills and the Highway 2 corridor. Working windmill and vignettes featuring ranching, railroading and more. Open May-Sep, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 1-5pm. Free. 308-872-8331 www.sandhillsjourney.com &

Outfitters

Sorensen Guest Ranch and Hunting 77690 Box Elder Rd, Sumner, 30 mi. N. of I-80 Exit 257 on US Hwy 183, 6 mi. W., 1 mi. S. — More than 4,000 acres of pristine ranchland. Vacation getaways and horse boarding available. Deer, turkey, pheasant and grouse hunting. Year-round. Hunting access. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. 402-886-2494 www.ihuntnebraska.com



Accommodations

BURWELL

308-346-5210 • www.visitburwell.org

Attractions

Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area 7 mi. N.W. on NE Hwy 96 — More than 5,000 acres for fishing, boating and swimming. Sand beaches, 2 modern and 2 primitive campgrounds, fish hatchery and visitor center. Open year-round. Park permit required. Camping fee. 308-346-5666 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

Calamus State Fish Hatchery 42254 Hatchery Rd, 6 mi. N.W. on NE Hwy 96, below Virginia Smith Dam on Calamus River — Open daily, 10am-4pm. Closed holidays & weekends Labor Day-Memorial Day. Groups by appt. Free. 308-346-4226 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &



Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park 82034 Fort Ave, 10 mi. S.E. on NE Hwy 11 to Elyria, 3 mi. N. on Fort Ave – Restored 1870s Plains infantry fort. Grounds open year-round, daily, 8am-dusk. Gift shop open late Apr-Labor Day, daily, 9am-5pm. Park permit required. 308-346-4715 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov & **Garfield County Historical Museum** 737 H St – Historical displays, general store and log cabin showcase the area's pioneer heritage. Open May-Oct, Mon-Fri, 1-5pm; Nov-Apr, Mon-Fri, 9-11am; or by appt. 308-346-4307 www.visitburwell.org &

Outfitters

Calamus Marine 46074 S. Lake Rd, NE Hwy 96, Mile Marker 13 – Full-service store with wakeboards, tubes and skis available. Year-round. Tubing. Boat rental. Pontoon rental. 308-346-5555



Calamus Outfitters LLC 83720 Valleyview Ave, 16 mi. N.W. on NE Hwy 96 between Mile Markers 4 & 5 – River trips, trail rides, Jeep tours, stargazing, bonfires, 2 lodges, 4 cabins and a general store make Calamus Outfitters your Sandhills vacation destination. Tanking river trips also available. Year-round. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. Fishing guide service. Bird-viewing service. Hiking guide service. Chuck wagon. Horseback riding. Horse boarding. 308-346-4697 www.calamusoutfitters.com

Kaleo on the River – Camp and Retreat Center 2 mi. E. on NE Hwy 91 – Christian youth camp on the North Loup River. Available for family reunions, adult retreats and youth gatherings. Apr-Oct. Canoeing. 308-346-5083 www.kampkaleo.com

Out-N-About Adventures, Inc. 150 S. NE Hwy 11 – Enjoy a day at Calamus Reservoir on a watercraft rental including pontoons, jet skis, ski boats and river tubes. Apr 15-Oct 15. Tubing. Boat rental. Pontoon rental. Jet ski rental. 308-346-4408 www.outnaboutadventures.com

Accommodations

BUTTE

402-775-2164

Accommodations

 pgs. 134–135;  pgs. 148–150;
 pgs. 158–162

Dowse Sod House, Comstock



Calamus Outfitters, Burwell

CALLAWAY

308-836-2245 • www.callaway-ne.com



Accommodations

CODY



Outfitters

Albert Pheasant Inc. 2 mi. N., 5 mi. W. – Sep 1-Mar 31. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. 402-823-4394



Accommodations

COMSTOCK



Attractions

Dowse Riverview Homestead & Dowse Sod House US Hwy 183 between Sargent and Ansley. Turn E. at Comstock sign, continue on 21C to Dowse Sod House sign, turn S. & E. for 3 1/2 mi. – Monument represents the first homestead in Custer County. River activities, camping and nature trails. Original sod house listed on National Register of Historic Places. Guided tours available year-round by appt. Free. 308-215-0365 or 308-750-8142



Accommodations

DANNEBROG

308-226-2237 • www.dannebrog.org



Attractions

Columbia Hall Archives & Tourist Center 104 N. Mill St – Experience the history of Dannebrog! Displays of past and present. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm. Free. 308-226-2237 &



Outfitters

Prairie Hills Hunting Club 1267 2nd Ave, 13 mi. N.W. of Grand Island – Enjoy 1,120 acres dedicated to upland game hunting. Dog training available. Sep-Mar. Hunting access. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. 308-226-2540 www.prairiehills.net

ELBA

308-863-2214



Outfitters

Buckshot Run Outfitters 2031 Rose Rd, from Cotesfield travel 1/2 mi. N., 1 mi. E. across river bridge, 2 1/2 mi. S. – Hunt deer, prairie dogs and turkey in the scenic North Loup River Valley. Guide, lodging and home-cooked meals available. Great area for bird-watching. Hunting Sep-July. Lodging available year-round. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 308-968-3387 www.buckshotrunoutfitters.com

ERICSON



Outfitters

Cedar Springs Diverse habitat in a low population area on the edge of the Nebraska Sandhills. Specializing in archery and muzzleloader deer hunts. Sep-Jan. Hunting access. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 308-653-5469

Get Tanked Enjoy an exciting and unique float trip tanking down the Cedar River in a plastic stock tank with a picnic table in it. Six people per tank. Custom trips available. Apr-Sep. Canoeing. 308-653-5469 www.get-tanked.com



Accommodations



M. Forsberg



EWING
 Accommodations

FARWELL
 Accommodations

GREELEY
 308-428-3925 • www.cnbgreeley.com

 **Attractions**
Greeley County Historical Society Courthouse Museum Courthouse square – View the Veterans' Wall and Memorial with more than 1,000 veterans listed. Domestic and military artifacts, jewelry, pictures, American Indian utensils, tools, clothing and antique books. Open Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm. 308-428-3115 &
 Accommodations

HALSEY

 **Attractions**
Nebraska National Forest (Bessey Ranger District) 2 mi. W. on NE Hwy 2, S. on Spur 86-B – Covering more than 90,000 acres, this is the largest hand-planted forest in the world. Camping year-round. Camping fees. 308-533-2257 www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska
 Accommodations

HYANNIS

 Accommodations

JOHNSTOWN

 **Attractions**
Long Lake State Recreation Area 20 mi. S. – Boating and fishing area. Park permit required. 402-684-2921 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov
 Accommodations

The Farwell Arms Bed and Breakfast, Farwell



R. Netzel



NEBRASKA Land Magazine/NPS

The annual Sod House Sunday at Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park near Merriman is the perfect chance for the whole family to enjoy living history demonstrations and fun activities.

LITCHFIELD
 308-446-2387

 Accommodations

LONG PINE


402-273-4100 • www.cityoflongpine.org

 **Attractions**
Long Pine State Recreation Area 1 mi. N., 1 mi. W. of US Hwy 20 – Scenic creek runs through canyons. Trout fishing, camping, hiking trails, archery and picnic shelters. Open year-round. Park permit required. Camping fee. 402-684-2921 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

 Accommodations

LOUP CITY


308-745-0430 • www.loupcity.com

 **Attractions**
Bowman Lake State Recreation Area 1/2 mi. W. – Boating and fishing area. Park permit required. Camping fee. 308-745-0230 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov
Sherman Reservoir State Recreation Area 4 mi. E., 1 mi. N. on asphalt road – Reservoir offers nearly 5,000 acres of land and 3,000 acres of water for almost every type of outdoor activity. Park permit required. 308-745-0230 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

 Accommodations

LYNCH

402-569-3202 • www.lynchne.com

 **Attractions**
Old Baldy – The Tower 7 mi. N. along Missouri River – This “tower” served as a historical landmark for riverboats. In 1804, the Lewis and Clark Expedition stopped here and saw their first prairie dog village. 402-569-3143 or 402-569-2706 www.lynchne.com &


 Accommodations

MEADVILLE

 Accommodations

MERRIMAN

 **Attractions**
Arthur Bowring Sandhills Ranch State Historical Park NE Hwy 61, 1 1/2 mi. N., 1 1/2 mi. E. – Working cattle ranch with ranch house, outbuildings, sod house and visitors center. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Tue & Thu-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun, 1-4pm. Park permit required. 308-684-3428 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &
Cottonwood Lake State Recreation Area 1/2 mi. E. on US Hwy 20, 1/2 mi. S. – Fishing, boating and tent camping available. Park permit required. 308-684-3428 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

 **Outfitters**
Twisted Pine Ranch 8 mi. S., 1 1/2 mi. W. – Ranch overlooking the Niobrara River offering turkey and deer hunts. Apr-May, Oct-Dec. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Bring own horse. 308-684-3482

 Accommodations



Country Neighbor Roast Beef Melt
 Burwell, 308-346-5049

Sandstone Grill Beef Italiano
 Burwell, 308-346-4582

Danish Baker Heart Attack Sandwich
 Dannebrog, 308-226-2208



NEWPORT



Outfitters

Twin River Hunts 100 mi. E. of Valentine – A 10,000-acre working cattle ranch full of wildlife and some of the best hunting in the region. Ranch home or cabin on the Niobrara. Priceless memories and home-cooked meals. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. 402-832-5238 www.twinriverhunts.com

NORTH LOUP

308-496-4242 • www.ordneusa.com



Attractions

Davis Creek Reservoir Jct NE Hwys 11 & 22, 1 mi. W., 6 mi. S. – This 1,100-acre lake provides fishing, boating, camping, hiking, water sports, wildlife viewing and a wealth of year-round outdoor recreation activities. Free. 308-728-3221 www.llnrd.org



Accommodations

O'NEILL

402-336-2355 • www.oneillchamber.org



Attractions

Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area 25 mi. S. on US Hwy 281, 4 mi. E., 2 mi. N. – Fishing and camping. 402-370-3374 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Holt County Historical Society Museum 401 E. Douglas St – County history concerning General O'Neill and the Kinkaid Act. Genealogy information. Open Mon-Thu, 10am-4pm; or by appt. Closed major holidays. Donation. 402-336-2344



Accommodations

ORD

308-728-7875 • www.ordneusa.com



Attractions

Evelyn Sharp Airfield N.W. of town – The airfield displays memorabilia of Evelyn Sharp, a famous Ord resident. Includes a mounted prop from one of Sharp's planes and a granite marker commemorating her achievements. 308-728-7875 or 308-728-3913 www.ordnebraska.com

Sandhills Motorsport Park, Sargent



Courtesy of Sandhills Motorsport Park

Valley County Museum 117 S. 16th St – Displaying the history of Valley County through pictures, books, room arrangements and special collections. Open May-Sep, Mon-Fri, 1-4pm & weekends for special occasions. Free. 308-728-3000



Outfitters

Husker Hunts Hunting Resort 80648 NE Hwy 70, 7 1/2 mi. S. on NE Hwy 70 – Complete upland game hunting experience. Comfortable, clean lodging, home-cooked meals and professional guides. Dogs, bird cleaning and warm down-home hospitality. More than 4,000 family-owned acres. Sep 1-Mar 31. Hunting access. Game farm access. Shooting range access. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. 308-728-3508 www.huskerhunts.com



Accommodations

ROSE



Attractions

Hutchinson Buffalo Ranch Conestoga wagon rides out to see bison. Canoe trips, tubing, sailing instructions and paddleboats available to B&B guests. View the strawbale house. Tepees and a sod house for guests to stay in. 402-273-4574

SARGENT

308-215-0241 • www.sargentne.com



Attractions

Sandhills Motorsport Park 401 S. 7th St – ATV and motocross tracks with sand and clay mixed terrain. Events held Apr-Sep. Event and rider admission. Memberships available. 308-215-0564 www.teamupr.com



Outfitters

Comstock Premier Lodge LLC 81785 Rd 457 – New 8,500-sq-ft wingshooting lodge with private rooms and baths, premium beds and exquisite kitchen. Hunting Sep-May; lodging available year-round. Hunting access. Game farm access. Shooting range access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Hiking guide service. 308-527-4199 or 866-486-8631 www.comstocklodge.com



R. Nishel

Enjoy a unique Nebraska pastime—spending a warm summer day floating lazily down the Middle Loup River in a livestock tank.

MULLEN

308-546-2625



Outfitters

Double R Guest Ranch LLC 86091 Double R Dr, 19 mi. N. on NE Hwy 97 – Hunt white-tailed and mule deer in hilly terrain and lush meadows or waterfowl on private lakes. Excellent pheasant, grouse and dove hunting. Fish spring-fed lakes for yellow perch and northern pike. Year-round. Hunting access. Shooting range access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Boat rental. Bird-viewing service. Cross-country skiing. Horseback riding. Horse boarding. 308-546-2314 or 866-217-2042 www.rgquestranch.com

Sandhills Motel & Glidden Canoe Rental 507 S.W. 1st, W. NE Hwy 2 – We have 2 tent campgrounds on the Middle Loup and Dismal Rivers. Tanking also available. Apr 1-Oct 1. Bird-viewing service Mar 15-May 15. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 308-546-2206 or 888-278-6167 www.gliddencanoerental.com



Accommodations

NENZEL



Attractions

Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest 18 mi. S. on S16-F – Despite its name, the 116,000-acre forest is mostly grasslands in the midst of Nebraska's vast Sandhills. Game bird, waterfowl and limited deer hunting. Camping fee. 308-533-2257 www.fs.fed.us/r2/nebraska



pgs. 134–135;



pgs. 148–150;



pgs. 158–162





Arrowhead Lodge & Café Pancakes
Thedford, 308-645-2246

Hilltop Hunting Lodge 81812 US Hwy 183, 3 mi. N. on US Hwy 183 – Pheasant, turkey, quail, chukar and deer hunts. B&B available for overnight stays. Upland hunting Sep-Mar, deer and turkey in season. B&B open year-round. Hunting access. Game farm access. Hunting guide service. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. 308-527-3633 www.hilltophuntinglodge.com

Accommodations

SCOTIA

308-245-3244
www.pe.net/~rksnow/necountyscotia.htm

Attractions

Happy Jack Peak and Chalk Mine 1 mi. W., 2 mi. S. off NE Hwy 11 – More than 6,000 feet of honeycombed caverns. Only publicly accessible chalk room and pillar mine in North America. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, daily, 10am-6pm; or by appt. Admission. Grounds open dawn-dusk. Call for Haunted Hollow info. 308-245-3276 www.happyjackchalkmine.com &

SPALDING

Accommodations

SPARKS

Outfitters

Dryland Aquatics, Inc. 101 Main St, 18 mi. E. of Valentine on NE Hwy 12 – Camping and full-service trips along the Niobrara River. Café and museum on-site. May-Oct. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-3119 or 800-337-3119 www.drylandaquatics.com

Sharp's Tubes & Canoes HC 13 Box 34A – Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-2506

SPENCER

402-589-9008 • www.spencerne.net

Accommodations

SPRINGVIEW

Accommodations

ST. LIBORY

Accommodations

ST. PAUL

308-754-5558 • www.stpaulnebraska.com

Attractions

Mileta Vista Winery 1732 US Hwy 281, 4 mi. N. – Overlooking the beautiful North Loup River Valley. Open Wed-Thu & Sun, 1-5pm; Fri, 1-8pm; Sat, 11am-8pm. 308-754-4416 www.milettavistawinery.com &

Museum of Nebraska Major League Baseball 619 Howard Ave – Displays of Nebraska Baseball Hall of Famers and other Nebraska players. Open year-round, Mon-Fri, 10am-4:30pm; Sat during summer, 10am-2pm; Sun by appt. Donation. 308-754-5558 www.nebraskabaseballmuseum.com

North Loup State Recreation Area 4 mi. N. – Day-use fishing area. Park permit required. 308-385-6211 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Accommodations

STUART

402-924-3607 • www.stuartne.com

Attractions

Spirit in the Wind 87255 464th Ave – Experience a day in the life of the Plains Indians with an overnight stay in a tepee, including educational cultural learning sessions. 402-924-3180 www.spiritinthewind.com & **Stuart White Horse Museum** 3 blks N. of US Hwy 20 on Main St – Local and area history. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, daily, 1-5pm. Admission. 402-924-3168 www.stuartwhitehorsemuseum.com

Outfitters

Sandhills Outfitters Experience more than 2,000 acres of scenic Sandhills country with turkey, deer, buffalo, controlled pheasant hunting, hiking, horseback trails and photography workshops. Year-round. Hunting access. Game farm access. Shooting range access. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-924-3180 www.sandhillsoutfitters.com

Accommodations

Museum of Nebraska Major League Baseball, St. Paul



Thedford Art Gallery, Thedford

TAYLOR

Accommodations

THEDFORD

Attractions

Thedford Art Gallery 509 Court St – Featuring member and consignor artwork, photography, pottery and other creations. Open Jan-Apr, Tue, 1-5pm; May-Dec, Tue-Sat, 10am-5pm; or by appt. 308-530-2380 & **Thomas County Historical Museum** Former Chester and Ida Paxton home on NE Hwy 2, 1 blk W. of the art gallery – The museum depicts the history of the Sandhills Region and many relics used by the settlers. Open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Fri, 10am-noon & 2-4pm; or by appt. Free. 308-645-2477 or 308-645-2489 &





R. Niehoff

Cowboy Trail, Valentine



Outfitters

Middle Loup River Ranch 40203 NE Hwy 2, 10 mi. E. on NE Hwy 2 – Access to rivers, creeks, numerous ponds and acres of land for guided hunts and tours. Year-round. Hunting access. Bird-viewing service. Cross-country skiing. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-450-2268
www.middleloupriver ranch.com



Accommodations

TRYON



Accommodations

VALENTINE

800-658-4024 • www.visitvalentine.com

Valentine Visitors Center

Main St & US Hwy 83 • 402-376-2969
Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm
Rest of the year, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm



Attractions

Centennial Hall 3rd & Macomb Sts – Built in 1897, Centennial Hall is the oldest standing high school building in Nebraska. The facility houses museum exhibits in all 12 rooms and is rumored to be haunted. Open Memorial Day weekend-Aug, Thu-Sat, 1-5pm; or by appt. Admission. 402-376-1455

Cherry County Historical Society Museum 240 S. Main St, Main St & US Hwy 20 – Open Memorial Day-Sep 15, Thu-Sat, 1-5pm; or by appt. Admission. 402-376-2015 &

Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge 5 mi. E. on NE Hwy 12 – Beautiful pine-dotted canyon is home to elk, bison, deer and prairie dog town. Refuge open year-round, daylight hours. Visitor center open Memorial Day-Labor Day, Mon-Sat, 8am-4:30pm; Sun, 10am-4:30pm. Rest of the year, Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm. Free. 402-376-3789 www.fws.gov/fortniobrara &



pgs. 134–135;



pgs. 148–150;



pgs. 158–162

Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area

28 mi. S.W. on NE Hwy 97 – This sparkling reservoir, set in the midst of the Sandhills, blocks the Snake River. Nearly 3,000 acres of water with boat docks. Open year-round. Park permit required. Camping fee. 402-376-3320 www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

Niobrara National Scenic River Rated one of America's top 10 canoeing rivers by *National Geographic Adventure* magazine, this river is part of the National Park Service. Pine-clad hills, cliffs, refreshing waterfalls and abundant wildlife draw visitors from across the country. Primary season is May-Sep. Local outfitting services. Launch fees may apply. 402-376-1901 or 800-658-4024 www.nps.gov/niob

Smith Falls State Park 15 mi. N.E. on NE Hwy 12, S. on marked county road – Located on the Niobrara River, Nebraska's newest state park boasts striking scenery and foot access to state's highest waterfall via a historic bridge. Grass RV pads without hookups. Park permit required. 402-376-1306
www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov &

Snake River Falls 23 mi. S.W. on NE Hwy 97 – Dramatic, wide riverfall plunges into a deep canyon. Scenic paths. Open year-round, 8am-5pm. 800-658-4024 www.visitvalentine.com

Valentine National Wildlife Refuge 20 mi. S. on US Hwy 83 – A Sandhills prairie with a collection of shallow lakes surrounded by marshes. The refuge provides a rich environment for all sorts of waterfowl and wildlife. Open year-round, daylight hours. 402-376-1889
www.fws.gov/valentine &



Outfitters

A&C Outfitters – Canoe, Tube & Kayak Rentals

18 mi. E. to Sparks, 5 mi. S., 2 mi. E. – Camping and activities along the Niobrara River. Apr 1-Sep 30. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-2839 or 800-691-9951

Brewer's Canoers & Tubers US Hwy 20, next to Pizza Hut – Canoe, tube, kayak and voyageur rentals on the Niobrara River. Check out our website for rates, shuttle schedule and more. May-Sep. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-2046 or 800-346-2046
www.brewerscanoers.com



Bunkhouse Restaurant *Bunkhouse Burger*
Valentine, 402-376-1609

Jordan's Fine Dining *Steaks and Seafood*
Valentine, 402-376-1255

Peppermill *New York Strip*
Valentine, 402-376-2800

Canyon Creek Lodge Sparks, 19 mi. W. of Springview on NE Hwy 12, 1½ mi. S., 1 mi. W. – Excellent hunting, hiking, sightseeing and bird-watching opportunities. Overnight lodging and limited guide service available. Year-round. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Big game hunting. Hiking guide service. 800-618-3096

Graham Canoe Outfitters 603 C St, N. side of Jct US Hwys 20/83 & Government St – Experience a Niobrara River Adventure. Half-day to 2-day trips with 1- to 3-person tubes, tandem and solo kayaks, shuttles, riverside camping and full-service catering. Interpretive rafting tours in the off-season. Apr 1-Nov 1. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-3708 or 800-322-3708
www.grahamoutfitters.com

Little Outlaw Canoe 1005 E. US Hwy 20 – Daily or overnight rentals of canoes, tubes, kayaks and stock tanks. Shuttle service offered with equipment rental. Enjoy tanking down the Niobrara River! May-Oct 15. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-376-1822 or 800-238-1867 www.outlawcanoe.com

Lord Ranch Resort 17 mi. S. on US Hwy 83, 9 mi. W. on Spur 16B, 1 mi. E. – Year-round. Canoeing. Tubing. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-376-5984 or 800-270-0181 www.lordranchresort.com

Tumbling over a 54-foot-wide ledge, the breathtaking Snake River Falls near Valentine offers a dramatic backdrop to all kinds of activities—hiking, wildlife viewing, and even fishing.



R. Niehoff





Niobrara National Scenic River, Valentine

Merritt Trading Post Resort 26 mi. S. on NE Hwy 97 at Merritt Reservoir – Full-service resort with lodging, camping, restaurant and convenience store. Apr thru mid-Nov; winter by appt. Hunting access. Kayaking. Canoeing. Boat rental. Fishing guide service. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. 402-376-3437
www.merritttradingpost.com

Niobrara Wilderness Outfitters LLC 11 mi. S.E. of Sparks – Hunt more than 22,000 acres along the Niobrara River. Guided or self-guided camps for rifle, muzzleloader and archery. Year-round. Hunting access. Hunting guide service. Big game hunting. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-376-1887 or 877-376-1887
www.niobrarawilderness.com

Rock Barn Outfitters E. on NE Hwy 12 to Mile Marker 28, 5 mi. S., 1½ mi. E. – May-Sep. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. Fishing guide service. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. 402-376-1764 or 800-335-6252
www.rockbarnoutfitters.com

Rock Creek Hunting HC 14 Box 7 – Private, secluded ranch with an abundance of upland game, big game, waterfowl and fishing. Your hunting experience will be exclusive to your own hunting party, guided or unguided. Sep-Mar. Hunting guide service. Waterfowl hunting. Upland game hunting. Big game hunting. Fishing guide service. 402-376-3082
www.rockcreekhunting.com

Rocky Ford Camp and Outfitters LLC 12 mi. S.E. of Sparks – Exceptional fully serviced, fully catered 1- or 2-day canoe trips. Rocky Ford uses all Old Town canoes and kayaks. Camping, cabins and convenience store available. May-Sep. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. 402-497-3479 or 800-497-3479
www.rockyfordoutfitters.com

Sunny Brook Camp Outfitters LLC 11 mi. S.E. of Sparks – Enjoy a trip along the Niobrara River with this alcohol-free outfitter service. Shuttle service, concessions and showers. Year-round. Kayaking. Canoeing. Tubing. Horseback riding. Bring own horse. Horse boarding. 402-376-1887 or 877-376-1887
www.sunnybrookcamp.com

Supertubes 1005 E. US Hwy 20 – Drift down the Niobrara on giant canvas-covered tubes past cliffs, pines and waterfalls. Float high and dry on the largest and most comfy tubes on the river. Top-notch equipment and professional service guaranteed. Apr-Oct. Cabin rental year-round. Tubing. 402-376-2956 or 800-799-9929
www.nolasupertubes.com

   **Accommodations**

WOLBACH
308-246-5278

 **Accommodations**

WOOD LAKE

 **Accommodations**

**There are just 97 days between
Memorial Day and Labor Day.
Don't waste a single one.**



There are 86 parks in Nebraska where you can camp • hike • canoe
• water ski • fish • mountain bike • ride horses • birdwatch • roast marshmallows
• swim • picnic • and just about anything else that makes your summer great.
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